

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 05134 101620Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----073323 101626Z /41

O 101517Z AUG 77 ZFF-6
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4355
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 5134

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM MURPHY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJ: ASSAD'S REACTION TO YOUR TALKS IN SAUDI ARABIA

REF: SECTO 0812 DAMASCUS 5106

1. AFTER CONGRESSMAN DERWINSKI'S MEETING WITH ASSAD
THIS AFTERNOON (SEPTEL), I PAUSED TO ADK THE PRESIDENT IF HE HAD HAD
TIME TO STUDY THE ACCOUNT OF YOUR TALKS IN TAIF. ASSAD
SAID HE HAD READ THE MESSAGE WITH GREAT INTEREST LAST
NIGHT AND HAD FOUND IT "CLEAR, DETAILED AND ENCOURAGINGMZ

2. THE PRESIDENT THEN ERPEATER WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS
BEGIN'S AND DAYAN'S RIGID POSITIONS ABOUT THE PLO, BORDERS AND
ARABSOVEREIGNTY OVER WEST BANK/GAZA. (ASSAD HAD COMPLAINED
TO DERWINSKI ABOUT DAYAN'S THREE "NOES." I HAD INTER-
JECTED THAT THERE WAS PERHAPS A LESSON IN PUBLIC
RELATIONS TO BE DRAWN BY THE ARABS IN THE PARALLEL BETWEEN
YESTERDAY'S ISRAELI "NOES" AND THE "THREE ARAB NOES" OF THE
SECRET

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1967 KHARTOUM CONFERENCE. ASSAD AT FIRST DEFENDED NASSER
AS A "MAN OF PERCE" BUT THEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ARAB SUMMIT
DECISIONS AT DHARTOUM AND PROVEN EXTREMELY DAMAGING TO THE
ARABES VIS-A-VIS WORLD OPINION FOR SEVERAL YEARS THEREAFTER.)

3. SAID I WAS NOT AWARE OF WHAT YOU MAY HAVE EONVEYED TO BEGIN
SINCE YOUR ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL, BUT SUGGESTED THAT THE FIRMNESS

OF BEGIN'S STATEMENTS MIGHT REFLECT ELEMENT OF SHOCK AT
THE THRUST OF RECENT U.S. STATEMENTS ABOUT THE PLO. ASID
IT APPEARED TO ME ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT AT THIS POINT
IN TIME HE AND OTHER ARAB LEADERS NOT RESPOND TO ISRAELI
STATEMENTS WITH SIMILAR RIGIDITY. ASSAD AGREED
EMPHATICALLY.
MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 10-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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